

Claims

1. A postal processing facility including a sorting system that receives mail in trays and sorts mail to trays and a dock area including a plurality of transportation docks that provide interface with transportation vehicles, comprising:
5 a receiving and dispatching system that loads trays of sorted mail from a sorting system to transportation fixtures and unloads trays of mail to be sorted from transportation fixtures to the sorting system; and wherein said receiving and dispatching system is at the dock area of the postal processing facility thereby providing substantially direct movement of fixtures between transportation
10 vehicles and said receiving and dispatching system.
2. The postal processing facility of claim 1 wherein said receiving and dispatching system includes at least one receiving and dispatching assembly that is adapted to both unload transportation fixtures and load transportation fixtures.
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3. The postal processing facility of claim 2 including a plurality of said receiving and dispatching assemblies, a sortation conveyor having a main line defined by a conveying surface and a plurality of spurs, extending from said mail line to said receiving and dispatching assemblies.
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4. The postal processing facility of claim 3 wherein said spurs include separate spur lines for moving trays from said sortation conveyor to the receiving and dispatching assemblies and for moving trays from said receiving and dispatching assemblies to said sortation conveyor.
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5. The postal processing facility of claim 3 wherein said conveying surface is a continuous loop.
6. The postal processing facility of claim 3 wherein said conveying surface is
30 elevated with respect to said receiving and dispatching assemblies.
7. The postal processing facility of claim 3 including individual enclosures around said receiving and dispatching assemblies with a moveable gate that can be